

**VICTORY WITH VACCINES: The Story of Immunisation.** By H. J. Parish. (Pp. 237. 30s). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd., 1968.

THE author of this book, a bacteriologist and immunologist of international reputation, states that it is based on his "History of Immunization" 1965, of which it is a shortened and simplified version. It is intended for the intelligent lay reader and the student interested in the development and progress in the fight against infectious diseases from the earliest times to the present date.

The book is divided into a number of sections, each dealing with a historical period during which the successes and failures of research and development of vaccines and antisera for prophylactic and therapeutic use are succinctly described. The text bristles with the names of pioneers in this field who have added their quota to the sum of current knowledge and practice. Early chapters deal with active immunisation by the use of living virus by Jenner, living and attenuated bacteria or viruses by Pasteur and killed bacterial vaccines by Almroth Wright. The rival theories of cellular and humoral immunity are reviewed, followed by the great advances since 1900 which include the development of antitoxins for therapeutic use, toxoids for active immunisation, B.C.G. for tuberculosis, vaccines for plague, cholera and whooping cough, and improved vaccines against enteric fevers. After 1920 the discovery of viruses led to the production of viral vaccines against influenza, the success of which is complicated by the occurrence of mutants and the short duration of protection. Outstanding success, however, followed the development of virus vaccines against yellow fever and poliomyelitis, and vaccines against rickettsial infections.

Closing chapters detail developments in protection against measles with serum, vaccines and gamma globulin, and current research on active immunisation against mumps, measles and viral hepatitis. The book concludes with sections on chronology, biographical notes, a short bibliography and a glossary of terms.

This is a history, not without drama, interesting and easy to read. Although written in simple terms, it will be of interest not only to bacteriologists and medical staff of hospitals and public health departments, but also to technicians in bacteriological laboratories. It should have a place in every hospital and public health department library. V.D.A.

**CUNNINGHAM'S MANUAL OF PRACTICAL ANATOMY.** Vol. II – Thorax and Abdomen. Revised by G. J. Romanes, B.A., Ph.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.Ed., F.R.S.E. Thirteenth Edition. (Pp. vii+271; illustrated; boards 45s, paper 30s). London: Oxford University Press, 1968.

THIS is the third volume of Cunningham's Manual to be revised by Professor Romanes and it maintains the high standards of the "Upper and Lower Limbs" and the "Head and Neck" volumes. The over-all length has been considerably reduced without neglecting material essential to an understanding of the gross anatomy of the thorax and abdomen. Basic facts on the embryology of viscera such as the heart and the alimentary canal are given as these help the student to appreciate the adult relations. The text is clear and concise; the illustrations and diagrams are excellent. Where excessive labelling might confuse the student the same illustration is featured consecutively with different labelling.

An important revision in this volume is a new dissection of the heart, which by a series of three coronal slices allows the demonstration of all parts of the heart as they lie within the thorax of the living. The dissection of the pelvic viscera is carried out on a median section which gives a clearer view of the structures examined on the lateral pelvic wall and tracing of vessels and nerves to the proximal parts of the lower limbs. Further, the male and female pelvis are treated together so emphasising the similarities and differences in the two sexes.

Professor Romanes is to be congratulated on producing a handy instruction manual at a reasonable price incorporating better methods of dissection. It is highly recommended for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. T.J.H.